

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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USIA-15 SCI-06 SAM-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 150926Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0566

INFO /AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2685

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: POLISH MEDIA FOCUSES ON NEW PRESIDENT

REF: WARSAW 4736 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE CENTRAL PRESS, HEADLINING THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS IN ITS AUGUST 14 EDITIONS, HAS NOW SHIFTED ATTENTION FROM WATERGATE AND THE NIXON ERA TO AN ASSESSMENT OF PRESIDENT FORD. A HALF-HOUR DOCUMENTARY TELECAST DURING PRIME TIME ON AUGUST 13 DREW AN UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE AND LAUDATORY PROFILE OF THE PRESIDENT. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HIS COMMENTS ON DEFENSE SPENDING, EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS HAS BEEN FAVORABLE. HIS PROMISE OF CONTINUITY IN POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION IS SINGLED OUT, BUT HIS STATEMENTS CONCERNING POLICY TOWARD THE WEST, CHINA, INDOCHINA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND HIS PROMISE TO STRIVE FOR THE "COMMON GOAL" OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND MONETARY STABILITY ARE ALSO EMPHASIZED, ALONG WITH HIS EMPHASIS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS AND HIS DETERMINATION

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TO FIGHT INFLATION THROUGH A BALANCED BUDGET AND REDUCED

GOVERNMENT SPENDING. UNANIMOUS HOUSE PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION ON CONTINUING THE CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY IS REPORTED UNDER SUBHEAD, AND THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL SHORTLY RECEIVE KING HUSSEIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT IS REPORTED AS DEMONSTRATING THAT FOREIGN POLICY GOES ON.

2. COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROMISE OF FOREIGN POLICY CONTINUITY, TRYBUNA LUDU'S ZYGMUNT BRONIAREK SPOTLIGHTS HIS STATEMENT THAT THERE IS "NO ALTERNATIVE" TO POSITIVE, PEACEFUL US-SOVIET RELATION, INTERPRETING IT AS SIGNIFYING THAT THE PRESIDENT "ACKNOWLEDGES," AS DID HIS PREDECESSOR, THAT THERE CAN BE NO RETURN TO THE "COLD WAR" OR TO "ISOLATIONISM." NOTING THE PRESIDENT'S CAUTION ABOUT DEFENSE AND HIS INTENTION NOT TO REDUCE THE MILITARY BUDGET, BRONIAREK EXPLAINS THAT ALL PRESIDENTS MUST STRESS "VIGILANCE;" HOWEVER, BRONIAREK POINTEDLY EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT HIS POSTURE WILL NOT BE EXPOLOITED BY "ENEMIES OF DETENTE" IN AN EFFORT TO ACQUIRE INCREASED ARMAMENTS. ON THE SAME THEME, ZYCIE WARSZAWY'S FOREIGN EDITOR POINTS OUT THAT MANY AMERICAN COMMENTATORS HAVE QUESTIONED THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTION TO MAINTAIN DEFENSE SPENDING AS "UNREALISTIC," GIVEN THE NEED TO COMBAT INFLATION.

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